

Lines After The Movie, HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR

*It saved a million lives, you say, and it
could never have taught them peace by raising a wealth
of foam from the sea, nor could its ease in frit-
tering mountains away have unmanned their stealth
or pride, so a few Japs died. War is like that.*

*Fallout sifted down like static to gild
the naked limbs of love. They've been healed by fifteen
years, and still the eyeless infant scalds
his mother's womb. Tonight the silver screen
burned with truthful ghosts, for once, and told*

*how a seed of hatred, settling on that town,
blossomed so brilliantly and with such speed
from the cramped community of flesh and bone,
left such radiant atmosphere over-head
that farmers no longer look to the land for food,
or search a summer sky except in pain.
Their skill grows obsolete under threats of rain.*

GHOSTS

*peer through cracks
in the wall beside my bed,
quiet as dropped pins.*

*But if I sleep,
they'll creep into my head
and do the dance of bones.*

-- George Amabile

Rome, Italy